

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 OES-06

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R 242150Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5186

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

INFO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP (LOPEZ PORTILLO, JOSE) CS, MX

SUBJECT: LOPEZ PORTILLO VISIT TO COSTA RICA

1. MEXICAN PRESIDENT-ELECT, JOSE LOPEZ PORTILLO, ARRIVED IN SAN JOSE FOR A 6 HOUR OFFICIAL VISIT ON SEPTEMBER 20. LOPEZ HAD A PRIVATE MEETING WITH PRESIDENT ODUBER, AND ALSO MET WITH FM FACIO. THE LUNCHEON ATTENDED BY HIGH COSTA RICAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND PRESS CONFERENCE FILLED OUT THE REST OF LOPEZ' PROGRAM.

2. IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS, PRESIDENT ODUBER LAUDED THE CHOICE OF LOPEZ AS THE NEXT PRESIDENT OF MEXICO, SAYING NO ONE BETTER COULD HAVE BEEN CHOSEN TO LEAD MEXICO IN OVERCOMING ITS CURRENT (MONETARY) CRISIS. LOPEZ SAID THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF COSTA RICA IN THE SOCIAL SECTOR HAVE BEEN EXEMPLARY, AND THAT HE WOULD SEND HIS ADVISORS TO STUDY THESE PROGRAMS. HE CITED THE POSSIBILITY OF PETROLEUM SALES TO COSTA RICA, AND SAID MEXICO WOULD STUDY POSSIBLE ENTRY INTO THE UNION OF BANANA

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EXPORTING COUNTRIES (UPEB).

3. IN RESPONSE TO PRESS CONFERENCE QUESTIONS, LOPEZ SAID THAT REESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS WITH SPAIN AND CHILE IS BEING STUDIED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE "ESTRADA DOCTRINE." LOPEZ DENIED THAT MEXICO HAD CONFISCATED THE NEWSPAPER "EXCELSIOR" AND REJECTED THE CHARGE THAT MEXICO HAS BECOME A CENTER OF COMMUNIST ACTION. WYEN ASKED ABOUT A POSSIBLE CONFLICT BETWEEN COSTA RICA AND NICARAGUA, (OVER FISHING AND MIGRATION QUESTIONS), LOPEZ STATED THAT MEXICO REJECTS ALL ACTS OF AGGRESSION, AND BELIEVES IN PEACEFUL SOLUTIONS. (PRESIDENT ODUBER LATER EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT SUCH AN ISSUE HAD BEEN MADE OF THE NICARAGUA DISPUTE WHICH HE SAID INVOLVES NOTHING SERIOUS).

4. RE US-MEXICAN RELATIONS, LOPEZ SAID HE RECOGNIZES THAT MEXICO HAS SOME PROBLEMS WITH THE UNITED STATES WHICH REQUIRE NEIGHBORLY UNDERSTANDING AND MUTUAL RESPECT AND PATIENCE IN ORDER TO ARRIVE AT SOLUTIONS.

5. ACCORDING TO PRESIDENT ODUBER, OTHER SUBJECTS DISCUSSED WERE CATTLE, POLITICS, FERTICA, (THE MEXICAN FERTILIZER PLANT THAT THE CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES ARE PURCHASING) NAMUCAR AND REGIONAL AGREEMENTS ON BASIC MATERIALS.

6. COMMENT: PRESIDENT ODUBER TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT ALTHOUGH THE LOPEZ GOVERNMENT RHETORIC WOULD ECHO FOR A WHILE THE INTERNATIONALLY ORIENTED INTERESTS OF THE ECHEVARRIA GOVERNMENT, THE LOPEZ GOVERNMENT FOCUS WOULD GRADUALLY SHIFT TO INTERNAL PROBLEMS. ODUBER SAID LOPEZ IS ESPECIALLY CONCERNED OVER CUBAN ACTIVITIES IN THE CARIBBEAN BASIN. PRESIDENT ODUBER ALSO SAID HE EXPECTS THAT TRADE BETWEEN COSTA RICA AND MEXICO WILL IMPROVAVZ, LESSENING COSTA RICA'S CURRENT UNFAVORABLE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

7. LOPEZ PORTILLO VISIT WAS WELL RECEIVED IN COSTA RICA, A COUNTRY THAT HARBORS TRADITIONAL GOODWILL FOR MEXICO. THE ONLY NEGATIVE COMMENTS, AND THEY WERE FEW, HAD TO DO WITH THE BREVITY OF THE VISIT. TODMAN

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